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THE PRESIDENT FIGURES IN THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

WASHINGTON MAY BE CHOSEN AS PLACE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT

DOVE OF PEACE SEEMS TO BE HOVERING OVER THE WARRING NATIONS.

UNITED STATES HAS PLAYED PROMINENT PART IN STEPS SO FAR TAKEN.

(By Publishers' Press.)
WASHINGTON, March 29.—The apparently well authenticated report from abroad that peace negotiations have at last actually been begun between Russia and Japan, is received in Washington with much gratification, particularly by President Roosevelt. Just what part the United States has played in bringing about this result will probably not be revealed until the treaty of peace shall have been signed. It is no secret, however, that President Roosevelt has, on several different occasions, stated that this government would be should the belligerents request it. It is quite likely, too, that even stronger hints were thrown out. During the past few weeks there have been frequent interchanges of dispatches between the State Department and Minister Grigorovitch at Tokyo, and Ambassador McCormick at St. Petersburg. The very fact that these dispatches have not been made public leads to the conclusion that they related to the matter of peace negotiations. It is believed that our representatives at the two capitals were instructed to sound the foreign officers there on the subject, and to suggest, indirectly and tentatively, of course, that the United States would be glad to do all in its power, with the consent of Russia and Japan, to lay the foundations for peace negotiations.

It is pretty well understood now that the original tentative terms upon which Japan might be willing to take up negotiations, were transmitted to Russia through the medium of President Roosevelt. In an informal conversation some time ago at the White House, Minister Takahira is said to have given the President his own personal views on the subject expressly stating, however, that in doing so he was not speaking for his government, but entirely on his own responsibility. The manner in which he presented the subject to the President, made possible the denial issued a few days later from the Japanese legation, and also from the State Department that the Japanese government had not approached the United States government in the direction of peace. What was done was entirely unofficial, but it gave the opportunity to the President of taking the matter up with Ambassador McCormick, and leaving to his discretion the manner in which he might bring it to the attention of the foreign office at St. Petersburg. The overwhelming defeats of the Russian army at Mukden and Tieling, it is believed, caused the Russians to receive the suggestion in a more kindly spirit than they would have otherwise displayed.

There is some talk here of Washington being selected as the place for the final conclusion of peace. The acknowledged neutrality of the United States, the distance of Washington from the scene of trouble and bias of most of the European powers one way or the other as between Russia and Japan point to this city as a most feasible point for the meeting of the peace commissioners.

IN HAPPY VEIN

WERE THE GUESTS OF CITY CLERK ENGLE AT BANQUET LAST NIGHT.

MANY OLD CAMPAIGN MEMORIES WERE RECALLED IN JOCULAR FASHION.

City Clerk Engle gave a very delightful supper to the officials of the outgoing city administration, at the Manley Hotel last evening. Councilman George Lilly was the life of the occasion, and the fun was fast and furious from start to finish.

At the adjourned council meeting held before the banquet, the mayor, and Councilmen Downs, Lilly, Harr, Robinson, Howard, Davis and Everhart were present. Very little of the business for which the meeting was called could be accomplished, because of the absence of the members of the finance committee.

City Solicitor A. O. Stanley presented for approval the deed of trust drawn in accordance with the formal requirements for the sale of the water bonds. The document was referred to the mayor and the trustee, W. S. Haymond, for their signatures, and the clerk was instructed to have copies printed for mailing as soon as the signatures were affixed.

Councilman Lilly argued once more the necessity for an arc light on Spring street, in the Second ward, and made a motion that the light be granted. Councilman Downs, chairman of the street committee, was asked his opinion, but said he had already made his recommendations for lights. An aye and no vote was called for and Councilmen Lilly, Howard and Davis voted aye, and Councilmen Downs, Harr and Robinson, no. Then Councilman Everhart, with the remark that he would decide the question, voted no.

Councilman Lilly called the attention of the council to the obvious fact that his reputed "control" of Councilman Everhart was surely on the wane, and with quizzical humor told Everhart that he ought not to "dile so hard."

"I wouldn't serve on the council another year for a thousand dollars," said Everhart.

"Good reason why," said Lilly. "They wouldn't let you. And they

wouldn't let me for two thousand."

The suggestion was made that these figures referred to the recent election expenses of the two candidates. Councilman Everhart repudiated the charge, saying that he never spent a cent as a candidate, and never asked for a man's vote. Councilman Lilly said his expenditures amounted to \$165, and Councilman Howard asked him if that included "candy for the children." Lilly resented this, and said that he had been in this part of the country long enough to know that it took something more substantial than candy to get votes.

The council adjourned to meet Thursday night at 7:30.

Clerk Engle then directed the company to fall in line behind the mayor and Chief Morgan, who led the way to the Manley.

The following sat at the board: Mayor G. W. Kinsey, City Clerk J. Engle, Councilmen Festus Downs, George M. Lilly, Z. F. Davis, C. D. Robinson, R. E. Harr, E. W. Howard, and J. W. Everhart. City Solicitor A. O. Stanley, Collector C. L. Barnes, Treasurer J. E. Powell, Water Commissioner J. H. Swisher, Street Commissioner G. A. Richardson, Chief of Police J. E. Morgan, Assistant Chief Chas. Bartholow, Editor H. C. Sample, of the Free Press, and press representatives, J. C. Bond and H. G. Dibblee.

An excellent menu was served in the Manley's best style. The guests demolished the following programme with great gusto:

Creamed Oysters
Celery
Roast Turkey
Cranberry Sauce
Potatoes a la Mode
De Stanno Peas
Cabbage Salad
Cake
Ice Cream
Coffee

After full justice had been done to the viands, toasts were responded to in exceedingly happy vein by Mr. Lilly, Mr. Harr, Mr. Powell and Mr. Bond. Mr. Engle spoke very feelingly of the pleasant associations he had enjoyed with the officials the past year and urged a continuation of such conscientious action and loyalty to duty as his hearers had shown to be their possession during his acquaintance with them.

THEODORE P. SHONTS WILL BE HEAD OF CANAL COMMISSION

SPRING TERM

AT THE NORMAL SCHOOL IS NOW IN FULL SWING WITH MANY NEW STUDENTS.

NO EXTRA TEACHER WILL BE SENT THIS TERM BY BOARD OF REGENTS.

The spring term at the Normal School opened yesterday. The entire day was taken up in enrolling new students. The number registered is not yet complete, but sufficient data has been gathered to show that there will be between 250 and 300 students in the normal department, exclusive of music and elocution pupils.

At the chapel exercises this morning, Attorney E. P. Ramage and Mrs. George Morrow spoke. The periods were shortened to-day to give opportunity for organization, but work will begin in earnest to-morrow with the opening of the session at 7:30. The work for the spring term has been definitely planned, and to-day will see thorough organization completed. The principal, Mr. W. L. McCowan, and the teachers are greatly encouraged at the outlook and are preparing for the most successful term's work in the institution's history.

Because of the added expense due to the large salary paid Miss Davenport, the new training teacher, the board has asked the management of the school to dispense with the services of the extra teacher this spring. The classes in Patrick's grammar and in geology have accordingly been omitted from the schedule. These subjects have been covered during the other terms this year, however.

A call has gone out for more six-year-old children for the model department. Children are wanted who have not attended school before. It is not expected that any difficulty will be experienced in filling out the quota for this class, as the children will be under the immediate direction and supervision of Miss Davenport, and the opportunity for such a superior advantage is not at all likely to be overlooked by parents.

Commencement will be held June 13, and the baccalaureate sermon preached the Sunday preceding. The orator has not yet been selected but will be a minister of the M. E. Church, South. The sermon will be delivered at 10:45 A. M. June 11, in the Normal Auditorium.

Miss Rowe, the elocution teacher, will give her first public recital to-morrow evening at the Auditorium.

PRESIDENT HAS DECIDED ON PENNSYLVANIA MAN FOR IMPORTANT POST.

JOHN FINDLAY WALLACE WILL HAVE CHARGE OF ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT.

(By Publishers' Press.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., March 29.—The President has decided to appoint Theodore P. Shonts, president of the Clover Leaf Railroad, as chairman of the reorganized Panama Canal Commission, provided he will accept the place. Mr. Shonts is now in Havana, but is coming back to the United States on the dispatch boat Dolphin, and it is learned at the War Department, he is expected here on Saturday.

He has already tentatively agreed to serve, and merely desires to consult with his family before definitely accepting. Mr. Shonts was born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Shonts, Judge Charles E. Magoon and Chief Engineer John Findlay Wallace, will be the three principal members of the Canal Commission. Magoon will be the governor of the canal zone. Wallace will have supreme charge of all the engineering features and Shonts will have general charge of the Panama Railroad and Steamship Company, and executive supervision over the entire canal work.

The other members of the commission to be appointed with one exception, will be engineers who will act as an advisory board to assist Chief Engineer Wallace.

May Start Automobile Line.
C. C. Bowman, a young man of this city, is considering the feasibility of starting an automobile line for passengers in Fairmont. While he does not know for sure that he will attempt the venture, he is seriously thinking of it and has received encouragement from a number of people. The plan is worked successfully in other towns and cities.

Marion Cafe, Commercial lunch, 11:30 to 2 P. M. 15c.

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COAL MEN PROTEST

AGAINST ASSESSMENT OF LEASE-HOLDS AND SO TELL DAWSON AND DILLON.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., March 29.—A meeting was held here to-night between Governor William M. O. Dawson and Tax Commissioner Dillon, on the one side, and the authorized representatives of the big coal corporations on the other, to discuss the matter of taxation. The coal men are here in force to protest against the enforcement of the new law relating to the taxation of the leasehold as personal property, as provided for in the statute.

Among those here are Hon. Taylor Vinson, General St. Clare, Jos. Gaines, Malcom Jackson, Ed. Knight, Edgar P. Rucker, and other leading attorneys. Il, or practically all, of the big coal corporations of the State are represented. Governor Fleming, of Fairmont, is also here but did not appear before the meeting.

At midnight last night the question of taxation was still being argued before the meeting. The fact that only coal interests are represented here is evidence, that the oil and gas

interests are willing to bow to the provision of the law, and that they are not protesting against the payment of just taxes. Not an oil man appeared in the meeting and the protest has come from the coal interests solely.

While at midnight the meeting had not concluded there is assurance that there will be no change in the determination of the State authorities. Attorney Hubbard, who has been here from Wheeling, attending to matters in the Supreme Court of Appeals, was at the meeting. He has given it as his opinion that the matter will stand the test in the courts. He says that leaseholds are certainly valuable and that they should be taxed.

THE WEATHER.

Rain To-Night.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—Forecast for West Virginia: Rain to-night, warmer in western portion; Thursday, rain and colder.

BADLY MANGLED

WAS BODY OF ELECTRICIAN HIT BY SUBWAY TRAIN THIS MORNING.

NEW YORK, March 29.—Alfred Moore, an electrician, while crossing the tracks in the subway this morning was run down and killed by an express train. Moore's body was thrown twenty feet. Before the mortician could bring his train to a stop it struck the body several times, throwing it finally in front of the station at Twenty-third street, nearly a block from where the man was first hit. Many women on the station platform faint. The body was badly mangled.

NINE HUSBANDS

BENWOOD WOMAN WILL HAVE IF THE POLICE WILL LET HER ALONE.

(By Publishers' Press.)
WHEELING, W. Va., March 29.—Pela Gorgovitch, aged 30 and remarkably pretty, was arrested at Benwood to-day upon her own confession that she has had eight husbands and no divorces. Yesterday she was arrested for impersonating another's wife for the purpose of securing merchandise. In the hearing she said she had been married eight times. She was fined for fraud. A foreigner who exhibited a license to wed and thus became the ninth, paid the fine and the woman was released. Before the couple could become man and wife to-day, as they anticipated, the police had again arrested the much married woman and are holding her for investigation.

Suit Entered, Circuit Court.
Festus Downs vs. Nancy Brumage et al. in chancery; April rules; attorney, R. A. Watts.

Committed to Sheriff.
The estate of Eugenius F. Hall was committed to the sheriff March 28, 1905.

MESSAGE FROM HAY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 29.—The following cablegram was received at the State Department this morning from Secretary Hay:

"GIBRALTAR, March 29.—Improving daily. (Signed) 'HAY'"

KAISER TEACHES FRANCE A LESSON

EMPEROR WILLIAM MAKES PLAIN TO THE WORLD WHAT HE THINKS ABOUT THINGS.

(By Publishers' Press.)
LONDON, March 29.—The following official statement was made to your correspondent to-day in regard to the visit of Kaiser Wilhelm to Tangier:

"The Kaiser's intention is to teach France a lesson in international courtesy and to assert Germany's resolve to preserve the open door in Morocco. After France had formed agreements concerning the rights of the powers in Morocco, the French government told the Sultan of Morocco that France had obtained a European mandate to control Moroccan affairs. Germany learned this and immediately informed Morocco that the statement was untrue, as France had never asked Germany for such a mandate.

"France's action in this matter caused the suspicion at Berlin that France was bent on closing the markets of Morocco to all the powers except England and Spain in order to secure the co-operation of England and Spain to back her claim to predominance.

"In order to halt the French pretensions the Kaiser resolved to visit Tangier and make plain to the world that Germany does not regard with equanimity the absorption of Morocco by France. If the French government in the first instance had asked Germany to recognize French rights in Morocco, while promising to do nothing to curtail German trade, Germany would have acquiesced, but France appeared to think that Germany was a negligible quantity in the Mediterranean and is now learning her mistake."

SOUTH AMERICA BLAMES BOWEN

UNITED STATES MINISTER IS CENSURED FOR TENSION OF AFFAIRS IN VENEZUELA.

PRESIDENT CASTRO'S COUNTRY SAYS IT WILL SETTLE OUR BILL SOME TIME.

(By Publishers' Press.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., March 29.—Venezuelans particularly, and South Americans generally, are disposed to blame United States Minister Bowen, at Caracas, for the present tension of affairs between the United States and Venezuela. They say that his dispatches on the various questions in dispute have been of an alarmist nature, when, as a matter of fact, there has been nothing in the situation to warrant the discontinuance of the friendly relations between the two

countries. They point that in Venezuela and almost universally in South American countries, every concession or contract given to a foreign company, contains the provision that if disputes arise they shall be settled by the local courts and shall not in any case become the subject of diplomatic interference. Minister Bowen, it is alleged, has overlooked this fact and has represented to the United States government that the rights of American, French and Italian corporations have been ruthlessly disregarded by Venezuela. If the diplomatic representatives of the South American government stationed here reflect their home sentiment, it is certain that the sympathy of South America as a whole is with Venezuela rather than with the United States. In the case of the New York and Bermuda Asphalt Company, it is pointed

out that every proceeding against the company has been by due process of law and that the receiver legally appointed is making detailed reports of his operations pending the final determination of the case.

The company, it is asserted, has clearly forfeited its concessions because it has not carried out the terms of its contract, which, among other things, provided for the canalization of certain rivers. It is also charged with having aided the Mates revolution. The Orinoco Steamship Company's claim against Venezuela was originally for a million dollars. Arbitrators fixed the amount due it at \$28,000. Venezuela says the award will be paid in due course, and hints at the fact as a reason that it has not yet been settled, that most of the surplus revenues of the country

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

SECRETARY HAY REACHES GIBRALTAR

NO OFFICIAL RECEPTION WAS GIVEN HIM IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS REQUEST.

(By Publishers' Press.)

GIBRALTAR, March 29.—Secretary of State John Hay, who was reported to be in a serious condition when he left New York, arrived here this morning on the White Star liner Cedric, after a pleasant voyage. Mr.

Hay's condition is much better and he is improving every day. He will start on a tour of the town at 10 o'clock this morning. By Mr. Hay's own request no official reception was tendered him on his arrival here.

Richard L. Sprague, the American Consul at Gibraltar, escorted Secretary Hay in his trip around the town. From Gibraltar Mr. Hay will go to Naples via Algiers. He left here at noon for the latter city.